

Again, we have heard the President prioritize health care for all Americans. However, creating a refundable tax credit to purchase health insurance does not ensure affordable insurance for individuals who are older and who have poorer health care. We are in the midst of a health care crisis, and the proposed tax care credit would only help 5 percent of the 44 million that are currently uninsured in this country.

The low-income families in my district do not want to hear false promises. They need to know that the programs they depend on, like Medicaid, are being supported and protected. We cannot ignore once again budget cuts, for example, that are being thwarted right now or lashed against; the Environmental Protection Agency will cut about 7 percent of their budget. We hear this administration telling us, we protect the environment; we are really doing all of these things because we want to have a safer environment, safer drinking water and cleaner air. But the majority of the funding that is being taken away at this time will, in fact, not protect our environment or public health.

We cannot make these kinds of trade-offs that we are hearing about. We cannot increase Superfund funding at the mercy of clean-water funding. We cannot steal from Peter to pay Paul. And the budget that the Bush administration is proposing cuts funding for leaking underground storage tank clean-up which is very critical in my district because you see blighted areas right now, you see gas stations that are abandoned. There are about 150 of these tanks in my district. They release toxic chemicals in our soil and in our water supply.

Our communities deserve clean air, land and water, and our children's health depends upon it. We cannot afford to ignore this.

The Department of Homeland Security might have received an overall 5 percent increase, according to this administration, but the President proposed cuts in grants to local fire, police, and emergency medical agencies which will result in about 18 percent cuts overall, first responders, public safety grant cuts by 18 percent from \$4.4 billion to \$3.6 billion. So who is really taking care of the homeland?

In my district, police departments are already feeling a tremendous strain, and many police departments are already proposing massive layoffs. In fact, one of the best programs that I can tell you about in my district is known as a community-oriented police service program, the COPS program, which is one of the very basic programs that helps provide the local cop on the beat. That is now being penciled out.

Our first responders must provide critical lifesaving services. I can go on and on, but the fact of the matter is we are talking about cuts in jobs and in education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under

a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RONALD REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight in honor of the 93rd birthday of one of our greatest Presidents. Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980 on the promise of a new America. His fearless determination in the face of the Iron Curtain gave America the hope for a better tomorrow.

Reagan's vision inspired the promise of future leaders and guided our country away from big government, high taxes, and economic stagnation towards international strength and fiscal responsibility.

Born February 6, 1911, President Reagan studied economics at Eureka College, took a job as a sportscaster, and found his way to Hollywood where he appeared in 53 films. One of the most famous films was "Knut Rockne—All American," where Reagan played legendary Notre Dame star George Gipp. "Win one for the Gipper," Knute Rockne proclaimed as he inspired his players to defeat Army for their last and only one of the season. This line later became the campaign motto for our 40th President.

Reagan embarked on his journey into politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild, and he soon realized his talents were needed in the political arena. Reagan went on to become the Governor of California in 1966, campaigned for President in 1972 and 1976, and was elected President of the United States in 1980, winning 489 electoral votes.

Amidst high inflation at home and hostages abroad, Americans longed for renewal, sweeping Ronald Reagan into office. Sixty-nine days after his inauguration, Reagan was shot by a would-be assassin. As doctors rushed him to surgery, Reagan stated, "I hope you are all Republicans," only to hear his doctor reply, "Today, Mr. President, we are all Republicans."

Reagan returned balance and exuberance to our government. Suddenly, there were two political parties working together towards meaningful legislation to renew our economy with tax cuts. Reagan's America was a place where all Americans were self-reliant. Reagan showed that big government was not the answer, but the problem. Reagan's agenda was to reduce the size of our government, cut spending, and reinvigorate our economy.

The success of President Reagan's economic strategy has given us direction on how to restore an economy recovering from a recession. In 1986, Reagan overhauled the income tax code, which eliminated millions of people with low incomes from the tax rolls. He knew that the best way to encourage economic growth was to give money back to the people. Reagan's tax cut sparked one of the most ambitious and fastest-growing economies in our history. We are beginning to see similar results under President Bush's tax cuts. Reagan proved that tax cuts could spark the necessary investment for a new economy.

In foreign policy, Reagan's motto was "peace through strength," as he embarked on a quest to end the Cold War, reunite Germany, reduce nuclear arms, and fight terrorism. Reagan is credited for winning the Cold War and setting the stage for the fall of the Berlin Wall. Although the birth of America's new economy in the 1980s is his economic legacy, people that remember the Reagan era recall a spirit of patriotism like no other. People rallied behind the banner of American ideals in the face of Communism and international insecurity.

After the threat of terrorism in the late 1970s and early 1980s, our Nation needed a reason to feel unity and security. Reagan was there to lend his wit and his hope in our Nation to all Americans. He gave us hope and promise when we needed it most, and Reagan's true legacy is the restoration of the dream that is America.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE BUSH BUDGET IS WHOLLY DEFICIENT AND IMMORAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.